

# ROCKLIN PD NEWS



*In this issue:*

*Rumors and More Rumors*

*Rocklin PD Walks in Relay  
for Life*

*PLEA Awards*

*Commendations*



## Rocklin Police Department

### Message from the Chief by Mark Siemens

Here we are in the last few days of summer, already two months into the fiscal year while the State still does not have a budget. Even though our friends at the Capitol are having trouble, things have been going very well here at RPD. Vacancies are being filled, shifts are finally getting the staffing they have long awaited, and most important the activity of crime fighting is going well.

Looking through the activity trends, I am very pleased with your efforts in the field. Month after month, officer initiated activity increases, calls for service increase while crime and traffic accidents inch downward. We are about to break the 11,000 mark for traffic stops in the last twelve months with the most recent tally at 10,943. Of course, every one of those contacts pays off in safety to our community. I am always amazed at the

level of success we have in the field. Great job!

I also noticed that our Animal Control calls have increased and we are keeping better track of the workload, our theft clearance rate is improving, and our alarm calls are starting to decline. These are all good signs. Thanks for the effort.

I really appreciate your effort to provide quality service; I recently spent an hour reading through a number of internal and external commendations. In the police business, many of our contacts are negative, but your professionalism is regularly being recognized. Year to date, we have received over four commendations to every complaint (formal and informal). Of course the majority of the complaints received are very minor, while the commendations are substantial. Thanks for

the hard work in keeping our City safe.

I also want to thank Officer Adrian Passadore for the submission of his article to this issue, Rumors and More Rumors. I appreciate his candor and effort to get to the truth. I look forward to future articles on this topic.



## Captains' Corner by Dan Ruden and Ron Lawrence

Farewell to a friend of Rocklin PD and a loyal City employee! After 27 years of dedicated service to the citizens of Rocklin, Lieutenant Dave Johnstone hangs up his duty belt for the



very last time. Lieutenant Johnstone has been a fixture here at Rocklin PD for a long time and

has seen many positive changes. After earning a Bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice from Sacramento State University, Lt. Johnstone began his law enforcement career with the Rocklin Police Department and enjoyed a long and rewarding career, promoting to the rank of Police Sergeant on July 19, 1986, and Police Lieutenant on July 18, 1995. Lieutenant Johnstone also enjoys the distinction of being Rocklin Police Department's most decorated officer, having earned numerous commendations, Officer of the Year in 1991, a Gold medal of valor, a Silver medal of valor, a Bronze medal of merit, and a Life Saving Effort award. During

his distinguished career, Lieutenant Johnstone held several positions such as SWAT Team Member, SWAT Team Commander, Patrol Sergeant, Watch Commander, School Resource Officer Supervisor, Patrol Lieutenant, and was a pioneer in beginning the K-9 program in Rocklin.

We're confident it won't be the last we've heard or seen of Lieutenant Johnstone, as a long-time Rocklin resident he won't be far away from us. On Monday, September 15, 2008, at 1500 hours, after a carrot-cake farewell and a motorcade escort home, we say goodbye to Lieutenant Johnstone as he logged

off the police radio for the very last time, "3-L-1, E.O.W." Good luck Dave, and we wish you the very best in the next chapter of your life!



## Western States Police Motorcycle Training and Skills Test by Sgt. Bob Martin

The Elk Grove Police Department hosted the 1<sup>st</sup> annual Western States Police Motorcycle Training and Skills Test on August 22-23, 2008. The event was an opportunity for all currently employed Police Motorcycle Officers to compete and share training ideas. This event was held at Elk Grove Regional Park.

Officers Jeff Amado and Steve Ortmann participated in this event along with 78 motor officers from across the state. There were numerous events that tested their skills such as:



individual time event, team event, slow race, and a tandem course. Each one of these events pushed the rider and the motorcycle to its limits. Cones were placed in a pattern with tennis balls set on top, which allowed no room for error. Riding out of the pattern

caused an immediate disqualification, knocking down a cone added 3 seconds to the officer's time and a tennis ball added 1 second.

Officers Amado and Ortmann finished second place in the team event and Officer Amado

took second in the slow ride and was knocked out of 3<sup>rd</sup> place by only one tennis ball in the individual event. This was the first time for both of these officers and they competed against some riders with over 30 years of experience. Congratulations to Jeff and Steve on their first training and skills competition.



### Welcome New Employees!

Please welcome Police Officer Kyle Hollis to the Department. Officer Hollis comes to us as a lateral from the Ventura County Sheriff's Office, where he has been a Deputy for 2 ½ years, primarily assigned to the Jail Division. In June of 2004, Officer Hollis earned a Bachelor of Science Degree from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo. Officer Hollis began his public safety career with the Los Angeles County Fire Department, but then got wise and moved into police work instead. Officer Hollis will be ceremoniously sworn in at the September 23rd City Council meeting.



Kyle Hollis

Code Enforcement Officer Richard Southern joins the Department as our very first part-time Code Enf. Ofc. Southern comes to Rocklin after having worked for the Roseville Police Department as a Reserve Police Officer for 16 years and the West Sacramento Police Department where he worked as a Parking Enforcement Supervisor for 8 years. Prior to "seeing the light" and getting into Law Enforcement, Southern spent 20 years with the Sacramento County Fire Department and had achieved the rank of Assistant Fire Chief prior to retirement. Southern was also a Fire Fighter in the United States Air Force for 7 years from 1968-75. We won't hold this fire thing against him...

The Rocklin Police Department welcomes you both to the City and to Team-Rocklin!



Richard Southern

## Rumor and More Rumors, by Adrian Passadore

Recently members of the Rocklin Police Officer's Association had a meeting with Chief Siemens and Captain Lawrence. We have meetings from time to time to talk about issues in our department. Usually the Chief will ask if there is anything going on or being said that he needs to know. This is because there are often rumors that fly around in any organization. Police Officers like to talk just like everybody else. Many times, I have wanted to ask the Chief about the ru-

mors and on the last occasion, I decided to ask about every rumor that I have heard.

The first rumor that was being passed around is that the Chief was leaving the department. Chief Siemens said that he is not leaving the department and his current plans are to stay for the CALEA reaccreditation in 2011. I also asked the Chief if the City of Rocklin was planning to merge the Fire Chief and Police Chief position into a

Public Safety department thus eliminating one Chief's position. I was told there were no plans to remove one of the Chief positions and we are not moving towards Public Safety, which would merge Fire and Police.

The other rumor that was widely circulated is that both Captain Ruden and Captain Lawrence had applied for the Elk Grove Chief's position. I was told that neither of our Captains has applied for the Elk Grove job and they are not

planning to leave the organization. In all, I had asked about three rumors that had been passed around as fact and all of them had been false. After the conversation, the Chief and the Captain said they wanted to hear rumors so that they could address them. I assured them that in the future I would be more than happy to provide rumor control.

### Rocklin PD Walks in Relay-for-Life by Captain Ron Lawrence



Amy Lind pictured as part of the Vince Amado Memorial Team

Several members of the Rocklin Police Department participated in the Rocklin relay for Life on Saturday, September 13th at Rocklin High School. Relay-For-Life rallies communities together and allows everyone the opportunity to participate in the fight against cancer. This event has become a nationwide phenomenon because of the caring and generosity of people in communities like Rocklin. The Rocklin Relay-For-Life is a 24 hour event and involves sponsors walking laps around the relay track to show their support, while donors donate funds to the battle against cancer. Relay-For-Life funds such things

as cancer research, education on early detection, advocacy for cancer legislation, and provides local services to patients and their families. Last year Relay-For-Life raised more than \$407 million to help support these efforts.

This year, Rocklin Police employees were sponsored by "Team-Vince Amado," and the Amado family honoring the life of long-time City Treasurer Vince Amado (1946 - 2007), who succumbed to cancer last year. Vince was a Rocklin resident since 1978 and the Rocklin City treasurer for 20 years.

Vince was a well known and respected City figure.



### Rocklin PD's Open House by Mike Nottoli

On Saturday, September 6, 2008, the Rocklin Police Department conducted a community "Open House" event from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Approximately 400 people braved the 100 degree weather to visit the police station and take part in the event which featured building tours, police demonstrations, safety presentations, and complimentary hot dogs, cookies, and beverages.

The event was entertaining, friendly, and informative, allowing community members to see the inside of the station, and providing them with a unique opportunity to see some of our police officers and special units in action. The event included two canine "suspect apprehension" demonstrations by Officer Jeff Kolaskey and his canine

partner Zeus, two "drug location" demonstrations by Corporal Jason Westgate and his canine partner Diva, two motorcycle demonstrations by Officer Casey Finney and Officer Steve Ortmann, two Child Safety presentations by Mike Nottoli, two Shooting Range demonstrations by Sergeant Tom Dwyer, and an excellent SWAT demonstration by Rocklin SWAT Team members Sgt. Scott Horrillo, Steve Ortmann, Brandon Olivera, Darrell Jantz, Luke Griffin, and TRV Operators Chris Osborne and Tony Handley.

Chief Mark Siemens, Captain Ron Lawrence, and Captain Dan Ruden handled the public address system announcements and demonstration commentaries, and Lt. Lon Milka was the media liaison. Building and

perimeter security was handled by Lt. Mike Freeman, Lt. Dave Johnstone, Sergeant Chad Butler, Officer Joyce Metzger, and Reserve Officers Doug Vance and Ron McCray. Jennifer Collins lead the building tours, CSO Sara Boccoleri staffed the Crime Lab, and Lisa Niziankiewicz and Amy Lind helped cook and serve the food.

As usual, the Rocklin Police Volunteers came through in a big way. They provided the staffing for the internal building security, station tours, child fingerprinting and identification, child activity booths, crime prevention booths, food preparation and service, and much more! Thank you to all of the volunteers who helped out: Margaret Cascarelli, Dorothy Dimmick, Stu Lehman,Carolynn

Fox, Gary Steinshouer, Muriel Moore, Robin Sisto, Rene Hill, Alan Wing, Kathy Smith, Sandi Wright, Charene Miles, Paula Lynch, Norma Snyder, Jeanette Norman, Ann Steinshouer, Gerold Cavallo, Art Woodward, Loren Poore, Kathy Magnuson, Mark Linkiewicz, Michelle Rowberry, Frank Bruno, Rosemarie Lafferty, John Adams, Becky Kanowsky, Dru Hager, Jan McFarland, Ada Squires, and Rich Vallone.

I hope I did not forget anyone! It was certainly a great team effort and an enjoyable day.



## Three Rocklin Police Department Employees to Receive PLEA Awards by Captain Ron Lawrence

PLEA (Placer County Law Enforcement Agencies) is comprised of each police chief, law enforcement department head, the Chaplaincy director and the Sheriff in Placer County. Each year this group of law enforcement executives receives and selects nominations for law enforcement awards throughout Placer County to recognize distinguished acts of bravery, meritorious service, life saving and special awards such as the Mark White Award and the Chaplaincy Award. The PLEA Honors and Awards banquet will be hosted this year at the Rocklin Sunset Center, on November 12, at 7 PM. I am honored to announce that this year the Rocklin Police Department nominated employees to be considered for various awards and the following have been confirmed:



**Ofc. Brandon Olivera** has been selected to receive the **Bronze Medal of Honor**. Ofc. Olivera was nominated for his distinguished five-year service to the Placer County Special Investigations Unit (SIU), where he established himself as a dedicated, talented and successful narcotics agent. Ofc. Olivera's experience and tenacity earned him the respect and admiration of those who work around him, as he often took on a lead agent role in his capacity. Ofc. Olivera has also been nominated for the Al Stewart CNOA award to be named later this year.



**Ofc. Dan Groff** has been selected to receive a **Life Saving Award**, for an act of bravery on January 19, 2008. Ofc. Groff

responded to a 44-year-old female who was unconscious and not breathing. Once Ofc. Groff arrived he found a teenage boy in the house and the unconscious female laying on a bed. As Ofc. Groff entered the bedroom, he could hear the last exhale from the female who suddenly stopped breathing. Ofc. Groff immediately moved her to the floor and noticed that her chest was not moving, she was not breathing and had no pulse. Ofc. Groff began CPR, and instructed the teenage boy to assist him by giving breaths to the patient while he conducted chest compressions. Once AMR Ambulance and Rocklin Fire personnel arrived, the patient had begun breathing again on her own. She was transported to the hospital where she recovered.



**Volunteer Frank Yoschak** has been selected to receive the **Volunteer Recognition of Service Award**.

Frank Yoschak is a dedicated, reliable, and versatile volunteer. He gets involved in many programs and it's hard to chronicle his activities and achievements. Since he started as a volunteer in 2002, Frank Yoschak has donated more than 1,800 hours. Frank is also a Functional Coordinator and helps to manage, train, schedule, and supervise other Police Volunteers who work in Patrol, Investigations, Crime Analysis, and Business License Enforcement. Frank's easy going style and friendly demeanor makes him well-liked by volunteers, community members, and paid staff.

*"The bravest are surely those who have the clearest vision of what is before them, glory and danger alike, and yet notwithstanding, go out to meet it."*

*Author: Thucydides*

#### JULY/AUGUST EXTERNAL COMMENDATIONS

**Ofc. Natalie Constable** received a letter from a citizen commending her for *"being down to earth, a real person who understands and cares about people in our community."*

The **Rocklin SWAT team** received a commendation e-mail from a citizen sent via City Council. A Rocklin citizen witnessed the SWAT team serve a high-risk search warrant on his street, and expressed *"their professionalism and precision"* and thanked the SWAT team for protecting our community. The citizen further wrote that *"he was proud to live in Rocklin and was equally proud of our police department."*

**Ofc. Mueller** received a letter thanking her for the great work she and the Rocklin Police department does. The letter expressed that Ofc. Mueller *"exemplifies just how good an officer can be,"* and described her professional actions during the arrest of two felons on his street.

**Ofc. Krempin** received a letter commending him for his *"care, consideration and patience, and for assisting her during her time of need during a medical situation."*

**PSD Lead Anisha Harper and PSD Hopkins** both received TWO separate e-mails from the Fire Dept, for their dispatching of a house fire. The e-mails expressed how they both *"assisted the community with kindness and concern"* while dealing with numerous telephone calls and simultaneously coordinating Fire and Police resources to the scene.

**Ofc. Law** received a letter personally thanking him for his *"rapid response to a fire call and for his calm and professional demeanor during such a critical situation."* The citizen went on to express *"how they consider Rocklin Police and Fire the best."*

**Records Sup. Westmoreland and Lt Freeman** received a letter from the CHP thanking them for their *"extremely helpful and hospitable assistance"* with an event at the PD.

#### JULY/AUGUST INTERNAL COMMENDATIONS

**Cpl Cabana** was commended for locating a stolen vehicle parked unoccupied while on patrol, and then tracking down three suspects who were also caught stealing property from Pick-N-Pull.

**Records Clerk Lilly Sifuentes** received a supervisor commendation for her handling of a news reporter who secretly video taped her in the front lobby while making a request for records. The reporter was given the appropriate information and treated with dignity, respect and professionalism, all the while secretly video taping Sifuentes. This interaction was later aired on television along with other agencies who had been secretly video taped.

**Ofc's John Constable and Dan Groff, Res Ofc Vance and CSO Hedrick** received a supervisor commendation for a great team effort resulting in the arrest of a domestic violence and rape suspect. *"Their dedication and efforts resulted in fine police work."*

**Ofc's Norman, Wilks, and Montgomery, and PSD Lead Harper and PSD Hopkins** all received a supervisors commendation for handling of a fire call. *"They were instrumental in preventing any citizens from interfering with the Fire Dept,...and the dispatchers handled the call expertly."*

**CSO Sara Boccoleri** received a supervisor commendation for her Spanish language skills which played an integral part in solving a sexual assault case. Boccoleri assisted in the interview of the victim and their parents and kept the victim and their family informed of what was needed to successfully prosecute the suspect.